

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of December 29, 2005.

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Independent Claim 25 Patentable over Azumaya in View of Farber

With reference to independent claim 25 of the present application, Applicants respectfully note that claim 25 presents no requirement for pre-selecting any areas beforehand which, on the other hand, Azumaya does require. Azumaya's teachings require selecting a region of interest (ROI) by enclosing it with a hand-drawn marker (of a certain predefined color hue and texture/density) or by drawing a dot via a control panel designation to enclose a rectangular area of predetermined size. An area recognition process is utilized to generate area flags corresponding to the pixels within the marked area (column 9, lines 47-54). However, in the present application, there is no such requirement of pre-selecting any areas beforehand. To the contrary, the subject claim, as amended, recites a limitation for "automatically determining window regions in the image without user assistance." Neither the limitations set forth in claim 25 nor embodiments of the present application require apriori assistance from the user.

Claim 25, as amended, further distinguishes over the cited references by reciting limitations for storing a graphical representation of the image in a page storage buffer during the first-pass processing and then using the stored representation of the image in the second-pass processing. Support for these limitations can be found from page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 22 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25, as amended, is not obvious in view of Azumaya and Farber. Therefore, claim 25 and claims 26-29 and 42 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Support for new dependent claim 42 can be found on page 15, lines 22-31 of the present application.

Independent Claim 30 Patentable over Azumaya in View of Farber

Applicants respectfully note that independent claim 30, like claim 25, presents no requirement for pre-selecting any areas beforehand, but which Azumaya does require. The subject claim 30, as amended, recites a limitation to "automatically determine window regions in the image without user assistance." Neither the limitations set forth in claim 30 nor embodiments of the present application require apriori assistance from the

user.

Claim 30, as amended, further distinguishes over the cited references by reciting limitations to store received portions of the image in a page storage buffer during the first-pass processing, thereby generating a stored graphical representation of the image, and then using the stored representation of the image in the second-pass processing. Again, support for these limitations can be found from page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 22 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 30, as amended, is not obvious in view of Azumaya and Farber. Therefore, claim 30 and claims 31-35 and 43 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Support for new dependent claim 43, like claim 42, can be found on page 15, lines 22-31 of the present application.

Claim 36 not Anticipated by Azumaya

With reference now to independent claim 36 of the present application, Applicants respectfully note that claim 36 presents no requirement for pre-selecting any areas beforehand which, on the other hand, Azumaya does require as described above with respect to claim 25. The subject claim, as amended, recites a limitation for "automatically determining window regions in the image without user assistance." Neither the limitations set forth in claim 36 nor embodiments of the present application require apriori assistance from the user.

Claim 36, as amended, further distinguishes over the cited references by reciting limitations for storing a graphical representation of the image in a page storage buffer during the first-pass processing and then using the stored representation of the image in the second-pass processing. As with claim 25 above, support for these limitations can be found from page 18, line 21 through page 19, line 22 of the present application.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 36, as amended, is not anticipated by Azumaya. Therefore, claim 36 and claims 37-41 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

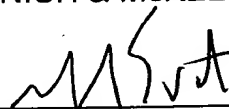
For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 25-43) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark Svat, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

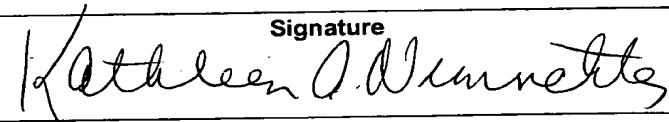
Date 1/30/06



Mark S. Svat
Reg. No. 34,261
1100 Superior Avenue, 7th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2579
(216) 861-5582

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and accompanying documents are being
☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 and addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 and addressed to: MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

| | |
|---|---|
| Express Mail Label No.: EV 690737172 US | Signature  |
| Date: January 30, 2006 | Printed Name: Kathleen A. Nimrichter |